TO THE

Benevolent Subſcribers

FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE

MISSIONS

CARRIED ON BY

Voluntary Contributions

IN THE

British Iſlands, in the Weſt-Indies,

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE

NEGROES and CARIBBS.

LONDON:

PRINTED IN THE YEAR MDCCLXXXIX.

Dearly beloved in the Lord,

I cannot preſent you with a more accurate Account of the preſent ſtate of our Miſſions in the Britiſh Iſlands in the Weſt-Indies, than by laying before you extracts of ſeveral Letters, which I have lately received from the Miſſionaries.

EXTRACTS, &c.

1. [From Mr. *Benjamin Pearce*, dated *Bridge-Town, Barbadoes*, March 16, 1789.]

IN a little time after the commencement of my labours in this Iſland, I formed a Society of nine members in this Town, and met them myſelf. I then laid a Plan as follows: I ſpent four nights every week in the Country, and three in Bridge-Town. Thus I continued preaching with all my might for two months, in which time my Congregations and Societies increaſed both in Town and Country; which compelled me to ſeek for a large houſe in the Town, but I could not procure one in any part of it. Mr. Button will remove from his houſe ſoon, and of courſe I ſhall then have no place to preach in. My mind was very much diſtreſſed, and I could not tell what to do. I laid my affairs before my Maker in mighty prayer, and concluded I would ſee, whether it was poſſible to get a Preaching-houſe: but I ſaw ſuch difficulties in the way as ſeemed to me impoſſible to ſurmount. I was ſenſible that no time was to be loſt, and in ſpite of all my doubts, I ſet about it with all my might, and my face againſt every hindrance. I am now going on with my Subſcriptions, and am from morning till night begging of all ranks and colours wherever I go, both in Town and Country; which gives me an opportunity of getting acquainted with the people. A ſpot of land was pointed out, which was every

way convenient, and I ventured to purchaſe it in the name of the Lord. The price is one hundred and fifteen pounds currency: it is ſixty-nine feet and one third deep, and about thirty-two in the clear. The whole I intend for the Chapel. I am promiſed a great deal of labour from Maſons and Carpenters, and if I can but cover it (of which I have not the leaſt doubt) my point will be carried. I hope to begin in a fortnight with this important building. I rent a houſe next to the purchaſe for twenty-five pounds per annum (currency,) into which I ſhall remove ſoon.

The devil rages in a horrid manner, finding his kingdom in this part of the world in ſuch danger, which is truly the caſe. He has ſtirred up many enemies: ſome of them I have brought to juſtice, and have peace. They publiſh me in the Newspapers in a dreadful manner, and threaten behind my back what they will do, "If the impudent madman ſhould build his Chapel." But I bleſs God, I fear them not: none of theſe things move me; neither does the cauſe of God ſuffer by ſuch things, but the reverſe. My congregations are larger than ever. Such crowds in and about the room at Mr. Button's where I preach, I never had before. It is truly glorious! Many of the firſt people in the Town came to hear, and heard with attention. It is hard work to preach to ſuch multitudes. I believe if I had a convenient place, I ſhould have a thouſand hearers on a Sunday evening; for our doctrine is much liked. It would do your ſoul much good to ſee how the word is prevailing amongſt all ranks and degrees of men both in Town and Country. I never in any place or any part of my life ſaw ſuch an open door as is now before me. If I can but get up my Chapel, I ſhall carry all before me, with the help of the Lord. The ſtate of my Society is as follows:

follows: in Town I have two Claſſes; fifty members in all, ſixteen of whom are Whites, and the reſt coloured: two Societies in the Country, one of eighteen, the other of fifteen members. One Richards, a ſoldier, is their Leader. I intend to form another next Friday, of about eighteen more. How wonderfully is God working! I am very careful in taking members into Society, or I ſhould ſoon have ſome hundreds. It is truly pleaſing to hear them expreſs themſelves. I never remember to have found a people grow in the knowledge of divine things, in the manner many of the Mulattoes and Blacks do.

With reſpect to myſelf, my labours are very great, and my mind is often much tried. I never was ſo engaged before. Great is the work of the Lord. Dear Sir, you little think or can conceive, the noiſe and diſputes, pointed ſermons, and work we have amongſt us. Notwithſtanding the great heat of the climate, and my being expoſed ſo much to its effects in preaching, I never enjoyed better health than at preſent, and indeed ever ſince you left me; for I have not had two hours ſickneſs, ſince I came to the Iſland. What a bleſſing! My ſoul is happy, very happy in the enjoyment of my beloved Maſter. O how does he ſupport me, give me courage, light and favour in the ſight of the people. I hope, dear Sir, you will remember me and my great undertaking before the throne, and ſend me every poſſible aſſiſtance. I ſhall draw upon you for thirty pounds ſoon for the firſt time.

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2. [From Mr. *Baxter*, dated St. *Vincents'*, May 4, 1789.]

LAST Thurſday on my return from Byera, I received your letter, dated Charleſton, and

according to your requeſt write you the fulleſt account I am capable of, of my proceedings ſince I left you. I have been with Mr. Gamble to viſit the Leeward part of the Iſland. We preached on all the Eſtates where we ſtopped, and had leave to preach on more than we could ſupply. The Negroes on this Iſland are very ignorant, moſt of them not having been long from the Coaſt. Returning to Kingſton, we knew not where to call to dine: ſitting down by the road-ſide we took the bits out of our horſes' mouths, and let them graze, while we applied ourſelves to reading, not knowing that any perſon took notice of us; when a Frenchman from the top of the hill, came down and addreſſed Mr. Gamble, who referred him to me. I perceived him to be a meſſenger of love; and he gave us a kind invitation to his houſe. We accepted the invitation of the kind ſtranger, and riding up the hill, were hoſpitably entertained. I was at Grandſable laſt Wedneſday, and the Caribbs were kind to me; and I intend to go out for good this week, the houſe being nearly ready to receive me; and then I ſhall viſit Grandſable three times a week, and ſpend the reſt of my time amongſt the Negroes. I have got the land into a ſtate of cultivation, and ſhall have it planted with cotton and coffee. I have drawn on you for one hundred pounds ſterling, and draw for an hundred pounds more to-day to pay off the bills. I aſſure you I am frugal, and ſhall not draw on you again this year. I cannot ſend you the draught of the houſe and land at preſent, as I cannot procure a perſon to draw it, but will foward it as ſoon as I can.

I mean

I mean to ſet apart a day for faſting and prayer for the proſperity of the Caribb work: and hope you and all our friends will pray for us.

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3. [From Mr. *Gamble*, dated *Kingston*, St. *Vincents'*, May 20, 1789.]

SINCE you left me upon this Iſland, I have had ſeveral ſtruggles with many ſlaviſh doubts and fears, that much good would not be done here. I therefore ſet a part a day for faſting and prayer; and ever ſince I have ſeen ſome fruit of my labours. Thoſe who were in Society, began to be more on the ſtretch for God, and were more regular at their Claſſes, which gave me a greater opportunity of ſpeaking cloſe to them, as I meet them always. My Societies now increaſed daily; and thoſe who had joined increaſed in the divine life every day; as they do now. And though the work is not ſo very rapid, there are a few coming in regularly.

We have had invitations to Tobago, though a French Iſland. Mr. Clark ſays, that much good might be done there, as the Negroes are Creoles, and can talk Engliſh.

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4. [From Mr. *Clark*, dated St. *Vincents'*, April 23, 1789.]

I Am now returned from the Iſland of Tobago, where I have been invited and tolerated. John Hamilton Eſq; at whoſe houſe I chiefly reſided, requeſts you to ſend a Miniſter as ſoon as poſſible; and he will provide for him, ſo that he ſhall not want any money from home.

I have alſo been at Barbadoes, and in company with

with Mr. Dent, one of the Miniſters that officiates in Bridge-Town, who told me that when General Matthews was in Barbadoes, he (Mr. Dent,) intreated him to encourage a Miſſion in Grenada; with which requeſt he complied; ſo that Grenada alſo is open.

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5. [From Mr. *Lumb*, dated St. *John's*, *Antigua*, June 22, 1789.]

THE work is proſpering in almoſt every part of this Iſland. And we have had ſeveral happy deaths. But we cannot ſee the half of them who die.

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6. [From Mr. *Owens*, dated *Nevis*, May 6, 1789.]

I Hope this letter will find you in the full poſſeſſion of health and happineſs, pleaſed with the religious proſpects exhibited in your travels, and grateful to heaven for all its mercies. Thanks be to God for his unſpeakable gift. I am better in health, than when I wrote to you from St. Kitt's. I am never ſatisfied with myſelf, nor my performances; but am loſt and aſtoniſhed when I conſider my Saviour's love. I am almoſt brought to determine with the apoſtle, to know nothing but Jeſus Chriſt and him crucified.

Yeſterday I had the honour to be introduced to General Matthews, by my worthy friend Mr. Ward, at whoſe houſe he is on a viſit. He invited me to Grenada, and ſaid, that I ſhould not want a friend. Colonel Williams is alſo at Mr. Ward's, and preſſes me; and when I told him I could not go immediately, he ſeemed uneaſy. Dear Doctor, if you can, let me go as ſoon as poſſible. Uſe your influence to obtain a Miſſionary for Nevis. I do not want to go from Nevis becauſe

becauſe the ſcene is gloomy, but becauſe the field at Grenada is ripe for the ſickle.

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7. [From Mr. *M'Vean*, dated, St. *John's*, *Antigua*, May 14, 1789.]

I Think the word of God goes on rapidly and proſperouſly in this Iſland, and as I am informed, in the neighbouring Iſlands alſo. Scores are flocking in, and joining continually: and the Societies ſeem to be very lively and diligent; more ſo, I think, in the Country than in Town. All ſeem to preſs forward, but hard, and vile-hearted me.

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8. [From Mr. *M'Vean*, dated *Nevis*, June 28, 1789.]

BROTHER M'Cornock died at Dominica about three weeks ago; and Brother Owens went there to ſettle his affairs, and preach to the people, and I came here to preach in his abſence, and ſee how the building of the Chapel at Nevis is carried on; and though Brother Owens met with very bad uſage here, yet the Lord has graciouſly made my path pleaſant. I think my labours are bleſſed to the dear people. At my firſt landing I was received very kindly by one of the principal men in the Iſland, Mr. Ward.

The Lord has opened a wide door for his goſpel in St. Euſtatius, and opened the hearts of the people to beg for, and hunger after, the glad tidings of free ſalvation: and though they have no Preacher, yet Chriſt has been with them; and many a precious ſoul amongſt them bears witneſs that Chriſt hath power to forgive ſins. Glory, glory to God in the higheſt, the Weſt Indies will ſoon bear ſweet ſpices, even the fruits

of

of holineſs to the Lord. Brother Warrener is invited to viſit St. Euſtatius: he goes to morrow, and Brother Owens is gone back to St. Kitt's, and goes with him. I expect Brother Owens here in five or ſix days, and then I ſhall immediately go to Mr. Hammet without fail, God willing. The works of Satan are daily appearing in their own colours more and more odious, in the ſight of all who are under the goſpel-ſound: and glory to God, I think he is laying to his hand, and battering down the works of darkneſs, and eſtabliſhing his kingdom in theſe iſlands: Religion ſeems to flouriſh in Antigua; but St. Kitt's will ſoon be renowned for ſound and pure religion: ſouls, all over the iſland, are inquiring the way to Zion, and ſeeking Jeſus who was crucified. O I wiſh I had time to write to you. I am juſt now going to preach.

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9. [From Mr. *Hammet*, dated *Tortola*, July 22, 1789.]

BY a ſhip to Liverpool, I ſent you a long letter not many days ago. As the packet is to ſail this day, and I ſhall not be favoured with another conveyance prior to my going to Jamaica, I think it beſt to ſend you as circumſtantial an account as I can, both of the work here, and the opening in St. Croix.

As to Tortola, I have already given you ſeveral hints about it; but ſhall now give you a general, as well as a particular information, leſt you may want to print any extracts out of it.

As to the ſtate of our ſpirituals.—We have 1500 in Society, gathered in ſix months, forty or fifty of whom experience the pardoning love of God! and ſcarce a week paſſes away, but we add

add fifty new members! It appears to me as if theſe are the droppings before ſome greater ſhower. The people are ſometimes ſo violently wrought on by conviction, that I am obliged to adopt a plan of having the convicted taken out of doors, to admit of my going forward with my diſcourſe. I do not think a week paſſes away without one at leaſt obtaining the pardon of ſins. Glory, glory to God: he doth not deſpiſe the day of ſmall things!

Our temporals.—Our houſe has been fit to preach in for weeks paſt, though it is not altogether finiſhed; but now it is nearly compleat. We have a ſmall dwelling-houſe of two ſtories, with every neceſſary out-office. Our total expences for purchaſe and building, is about 1300l. currency. Our debt 700l. or near to it. I have drawn upon you for 100l. ſterling towards this iſland, which with frugality has ſupported two Miniſters and three ſervants of the Church and houſe; and have alſo purchaſed a horſe and furniture, and defrayed my expence to and from St. Croix: beſides I have between two and three joes to pay in St. Croix for the expences of my memorial to the King of Denmark: ſo that I can aſſure you, I do not poſſeſs one pound of the above money this day as I write. You will acknowledge I have not been idle in collecting from different ſources 600l. currency, and faithfully expending it and more on the premiſes in ſix months. The 700l. we are in debt, is to be paid at 100l. per annum, till the whole is paid with intereſt.

I informed you in one of my laſt letters of my viſit to St. Croix. I waited on the General, who informed me I muſt get a memorial to the King, and have it preſented to the Government.

ment-Council for their furtherance. I ſpent nine days in that iſland, all which time I preached at the Rev. Dr. Knox's, the Preſbyterian Miniſter's Church, who intereſts himſelf in our cauſe, and tranſlates all my buſineſs relative to the preſenting our petition. I ſhould be glad if you would ſend him a letter of thanks in the warmeſt manner, for he is worthy.

By the trouble I have taken, with the aſſiſtance of my worthy friend Dr. Knox, and the trifling expence here, and at home, we ſhall have an eſtabliſhment in St. Croix, St. Thomas's, and St. John's, three iſlands of great conſequence to our connexion in theſe parts.

Dr. Knox's letter will inform you of his opinion as a man of experience on the ſubject: and I am apt to think it would be beſt to ſend ſome perſon of, not only true piety, but good abilities as a Miniſter: ſeeing it is a foreign iſland.

Brother M'Vean is arrived at Tortola, and I believe will be a remarkable bleſſing to this people. Brother Brazier and he are to labour together in this iſland, who will (on account of the infancy of the work) have more to do than any two in the Weſt-Indies. The iſland will ſupport itſelf; ſo that it will not trouble the fund for any more ſupplies.

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10. [From a Lady in *Jamaica*, to her Son in *Birmingham*, dated *Kingſton*, Feb. 24, 1789.]

AS my letters have been for a long time paſt, chiefly of a diſagreeable and melancholy kind, ſo I think it my duty when any thing offers that is pleaſing to myſelf, and I have room to ſuppoſe will be in ſome degree ſo to you, to inform

inform you of it by the earlieſt opportunity. Doctor Coke who is in connection with Mr. Weſley, has honoured this wicked land with a viſit. He ſailed the 9th inſtant for Charleſton, after a ſhort ſtay (as many of us think) of ten days; during which I had the happineſs of frequently hearing him preach. For my part, I more particularly admire him, as a ſon of conſolation: yet on proper occaſions, he convinced us he could reprehend as well as conſole. Two of his ſermons particularly have made ſome noiſe among us. In compliance with the requeſt of ſome of his friends, the Doctor was ſo obliging as to leave the heads of one ſermon, with permiſſion to have them inſerted in our public papers, and I have not the leaſt doubt but it will have a good effect upon the people at large, and be the means of opening a door for the undiſturbed reception of ſincere Clergymen, whoſe zealous endeavours will, I truſt, through God's bleſſing, be crowned with ſucceſs, and be the happy inſtruments of bringing many to ſalvation. The ſecond diſcourſe of the Doctor's, which more particularly attracted the people's attention, was delivered at Port Royal: the expreſſion eſpecially which gave offence was a ſtrong one, "Was Jeſus Chriſt again to viſit a ſinful world for the ſame purpoſes he once did, the people of Jamaica would cry out, "crucify him," "crucify him." A Gentleman who called in at our ſhop, was remarking on it, as being talked of in Kingſton and the means of drawing ſome of the inhabitants to Port-Royal: and I could not help applauding that which (tho' it may ſeem ſevere) there is too much reaſon to believe is perfectly juſt. And the Doctor muſt have

had little penetration, had he not diſcovered that there was a greater neceſſity for the cauſtic and imputation-knife of a ſkilful ſurgeon, than the lenitives of a mild phyſician.

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11. [From the ſame Lady, to her Son, dated May 28, 1789.]

IF you ſee Dr. Coke, tell him that brother and ſiſter Fiſhley, Mr. Foſbrook, your father and myſelf wiſh to be remembered to him in the moſt affectionate manner: we truſt his labours were not wholly in vain in this land of corruption: there are two or three that endeavour to keep alive the remembrance of his inſtructions, by ſometimes repeating what our frail memories retain; indeed I often thought he addreſſed himſelf particularly to me; his words ſo ſearched my inmoſt ſoul. How truly welcome indeed was the Meſſenger of plenty to famiſhed wretches!

We are in daily expectation of ſeeing Mr. Hammet. A Captain who arrived eleven days ſince, informed Mr. Bull, that the veſſel he is in, bound for this place, had put into Nevis, to get ſome little repairs, and would ſoon be here. This Captain has been one of his hearers in Tortola, where he has had amazing ſucceſs, and he muſt be eminently qualified for doing good wherever he goes. But though I truſt their loſs will be our gain, I cannot help compaſſionating their feelings on being deprived of ſuch a Paſtor.

12. [From

12. [From a Letter written by a Lady in the *Weſt Indies* to a Merchant in *London:* dated, June 29, 1789.*]

THE work among the Caribbs is ſo arduous, and the toils and labours are ſo many, that thoſe who are engaged in it, have need to be in the greateſt union with each other, that they may by mutual prayer and ſweet counſel, hold up each other's hands, amidſt every diſcouraging circumſtance that may occur. I do believe, in this caſe a work may be effected, for which ſucceeding generations ſhall revere the memory of all that have any way promoted its progreſs, and praiſe God on their behalf; as it would not only add to the Redeemer's kingdom, but be of the greateſt utility to the nation to which the iſle belongs: but which, in its preſent ſtate, muſt be loſt, if at any time attacked, in being ſo much like the human heart, in having its worſt enemies within. In the late war the Caribbs offered the Marquis de Boullie, that at his word they would maſſacre every ſubject of Great Britain that reſided in the iſland; but he generouſly deterred them, by ſaying that if they attempted it, he would throw in ſuch a force as ſhould wholly extirpate them. Mr. Baxter's heart is much in the work, and it is ſurprizing with what facility he has learned the Indian language. The Caribbs are ſo fond of him that they little regard any other. As ſoon as he returned from the Conference at Antigua, they flocked about him as if he was their father. I ſaw ſeveral of them, among whom

* The Deſcription of our work among the Caribbs in this Letter is ſo juſt, that I thought it would by no means be improper to add the following Extract to the foregoing.

ſome are greatly civilized, and a few can read. They diſcover a deſire for inſtruction, and ſhew marks of reverence, when prayer or any other religious duty is performed; and if offered any refreſhment, they will not touch it, till a bleſſing is aſked. There is ſomething very noble in the ſpirit and manners of thoſe that are improved, far ſurpaſſing the Negroes in general.

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13. [From Mr. *M'Cornock*,* to Mr. *Stubbs*, Silverſmith, in *London*, dated *Roſeau*, *Dominica*, March 3, 1789.]

I Arrived at Roſeau the firſt of laſt January. I preach on eight Eſtates and in the Fort: and have had a quiet people in the Country to hear me, and about ſixty in Society in the Country, and about one hundred in the Town. Soon after I landed, I payed my reſpects to the Governor, who promiſed me his intereſt. I ſuppoſe there are hundreds here, who never heard a Sermon ſince they came to the iſland. O pray for me, and my poor ignorant people, and ſtrive to meet me at God's right-hand all glorious.

WE have not been as ſucceſsful among the Caribbs as we could wiſh: but as Mr. Baxter has learned the Indian language, and is eſteemed and beloved by the Caribbs as a father, he will I doubt not be enabled, through the bleſſing of God, to chriſtianize many of the parents, who will of courſe rejoice in the privilege of a chriſtian education for their children.

* Mr. *M'Cornock* died of a fever on the 28th of June, in *Dominica*.

I muſt

I muſt now leave the whole at the feet of the pious, the humane and generous, who may peruſe theſe lines. I confeſs, the intereſts of this work, particularly that part of it which relates to the myriads of poor Negroes who inhabit the Britiſh Iſles in that great Archipelago, poſſeſs a large portion of my heart. I doubt not but the day will arrive, when Negro-Preachers may be found, that will carry the Goſpel into the Negro-land. The expences of theſe Miſſions are very great at preſent: and the larger the Contributions are, the more extenſively may the work be carried on. I have only to add my prayers, that the Lord out of his abundant treaſures may beſtow an infinite reward on all thoſe who are pleaſed to aſſiſt me in this labour of love.

THOMAS COKE.

City-Road, London,
Aug. 26, 1789.

The

The Stations of the Miſſionaries.

1	*Antigua,*	William Warrener, John Harper.
2	*St. Chriſtophers, Nevis, and St. Euſtatius.*	Matthew Lumb, Thomas Owen, George Skerrit.
3	*Tortola,*	William Brazier, John M'Vean.
4	*Jamaica,*	William Hammet, John Lynn.
5	*St. Vincents,*	John Baxter, Robert Gamble, John Clarke.
6	*Grenada,*	William Meredith.
7	*Barbadoes,*	Benjamin Pearce.

The Numbers in Society.

1	*Antigua,*	Whites	70
		Blacks	2730
2	*St. Chriſtopher's,*	Whites and Mulattoes	280
		Blacks	500
3	*St. Euſtatius,*	Whites	3
		Blacks	153
4	*Nevis,*	Coloured People	98
5	*Tortola,*	Coloured People	600
6	*St. Vincents,*	Whites	16
		Blacks	140
7	*Barbadoes,*	Whites	10
		Blacks	93
		In all,	4,693 *

* I have not inſerted the numbers in Dominica, as we are ſo unhappy as to have no Miſſionary in that Iſland at preſent by reaſon of the death of Mr.

Mr. M'Cornock. I have omitted in my Narrative to inform our friends that the Perſecution in St. Euſtatius is at an end through the interference of a very reſpectable perſon in England. The Society in Tortola being quite in its infancy, I have inſerted only 600 members inſtead of 1,500.

A State of the RECEIPTS *and* DISBURSEMENTS *from Auguſt* 1788, *to Auguſt* 1789.

	£	s	d
Received incluſive of 100l. I advanced for my own expences, and 56l. I ſubſcribed.	1404	1	6
Paid for the travelling expences of five Miſſionaries, three from Ireland and two from England, all of whom ſailed from Graveſend; for their clothes, linen, &c. for a ſmall collection of Books for each; for their Paſſage; and for my own Paſſage and expences.	566	11	10
Paid for Books of various kinds, part of which were to be ſold, and the money appropriated to the carrying on of the work, and part to be given away to thoſe of the Negroes who can read.	62	3	4
Loſt by light gold, &c.	0	17	5
Paid for printing Addreſſes to the Public, &c.	3	11	2
Advanced for the ſupport of the work in Barbadoes.	50	0	0
Advanced for the work in Tortola whilſt I was there and ſince.	90	0	0

Advanced,

	£	s	d
Advanced for the ſupport of Mr. and Mrs. Baxter, and Mr. and Mrs. Joyce, among the Caribbs.	156	2	9
Advanced for the Paſſages of all the Preachers who met me at the Conference in Antigua, (thoſe excepted who were ſtationed there;) for my own Paſſage in viſiting twelve of the Iſlands; for my expences during my abode in the Iſlands; and ſmall ſums of money which I found it neceſſary to give ſeveral of the Miſſionaries before I parted with them.	195	12	0
For the compleating of the School and Dwelling-houſe among the Caribbs, and for furniſhing it.	180	4	0
For various ſmall Bills which were drawn upon me, and the money for which was applied for various neceſſary purpoſes in the Iſlands, with ſeveral ſmall particulars not coming immediately under the foregoing heads.	117	5	8
Advanced for the work in Nevis	50	0	0
Advanced in all,	1472	8	2
Received in all,	1404	1	6
Balance in my favour,	£68	6	8

F I N I S.